

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, July 15, 2005

REPORTS OF SERIOUS CRIME IN DC DECLINE 14 PERCENT DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 2005

The number of serious crimes reported in DC declined more than 14 percent during the first half of 2005 when compared to the first six months of 2004, according to preliminary statistics from the MPDC. Reductions were reported in all nine major crime categories, with the largest declines occurring in arson offenses, stolen autos and sexual assaults. During the first six months of the year, homicides fell by more than 4 percent, total violent crime declined by 11 percent and total property crime was down 15 percent. Preliminary data indicate crime levels fell in all seven police districts through the first six months of the year, with 6D (-20%), 1D (-18%) and 4D (-16.5%) recording the largest percentage decreases. The year-to-date trend was driven, in part, by continued reductions in crime during June 2005. Preliminary statistics for June 2005 show that overall crime was down 17 percent when compared to June 2004. All crime categories, except homicide, declined during June. The latest 2005 data follow significant declines in DC crime during 2004 (-18%) and 2003 (-9%), pushing the District's crime level to one of its lowest points in decades.

- ① View the half-year preliminary crime statistics for each police district and the city as a whole at:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1239,q,543329.asp>

- ① For up-to-date data on homicides, arrests and firearm recoveries in DC, got to:

http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1239,q,543308,mpdcNav_GID,1523,mpdcNav,.asp

LICENSE, REGISTRATION AND INSURANCE, PLEASE: MPDC BEGINS ENFORCEMENT OF PROOF OF INSURANCE LAW

DC law requires motorists to display not only their driver's license and vehicle registration, but also proof of insurance when stopped by the police. Beginning July 16, MPDC officers are enforcing the "proof of insurance" law – and the \$300 civil fine that is attached to this infraction. The goal is to reduce the number of drivers in DC who don't carry insurance as required by District law. Uninsured drivers are a serious problem, undermining traffic safety and driving up the costs for law-abiding motorists. DC law defines proof of insurance as "a document issued by an insurance company that lists the name of the insurance company, the policy number, the name or names of the insured, and the period of coverage for the insurance." Over the past month, MPDC officers have been issuing warning notices only to violators, as part of a campaign to educate drivers about the District's proof of insurance provision. Now, officers are writing citations for failing to provide proof of insurance. The MPDC reminds motorists that the law applies to everyone who drives in the District, regardless of where their vehicle is registered or driver's license issued.

- ① Read the full news release at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1245,q,557630.asp>

- ① Learn more about insurance requirements under DC's Compulsory/No-Fault Motor Vehicle Insurance Act at:
<http://dmv.dc.gov/info/insurance.shtm>

JULY OFFICERS OF THE MONTH ARE HONORED

Early one morning in March, 7D Sergeant Richard Harger observed a vehicle that had been reported stolen a few nights earlier. Sergeant Harger effected a traffic stop and asked the defendant to exit the vehicle. As the defendant complied, Sergeant Harger observed the handle of a rifle protruding from his waistband. The defendant fled on foot into an adjacent wooded area, but after a brief foot chase, was apprehended. Police recovered a loaded Remington 30-30 caliber sawed-off rifle with a mounted two-power scope, as well as 18 ziplocks of crack cocaine. Working with members of the Project Safe Neighborhoods team, Sergeant Harger obtained a DC Superior Court search warrant for the suspect's home, which turned up three more firearms, more than 50 rounds of ammunition, and a small quantity of green weed substance. For building such a strong case against a suspected drug dealer who was preying on the community, the following 7D members were recognized during the July CHAMPS Awards luncheon: Sergeant Harger, Sergeant Michael Whiteside, Detective Arthur Reed, and Officers David Chumbley, Mathew Dailey, Frantz Desir, Ryan Petrasek and Ryan Roe. They were among 19 MPDC members who were honored for their outstanding efforts at the monthly ceremony.

WITH MPDC'S SUPPORT, METRO STEPS UP SECURITY; ENCOURAGES RIDERS TO BE VIGILANT

With the assistance of the MPDC and other law enforcement agencies, Metro officials have increased security at Metrorail stations, on trains and in Metrobuses as a result of the recent bombings in London. Metro Transit Police have deployed special response teams and explosive detection canine teams to conduct sweeps of Metrorail stations and trains and buses. Metrorail station restrooms have been temporarily closed for security reasons. Transit police officers and other Metro employees are wearing florescent visibility vests so that customers who notice anything unusual can quickly spot and alert a police officer. More officers, both Transit police and local police, have begun patrolling the system. MPDC officers are paying special attention to areas around Metrorail stations and are conducting periodic checks of buses. Metro officials continue to stress how important it is for riders to know what they can do and how to prepare if an emergency situation arises. "Everyone has a role in protecting the transit system, our 10,000 dedicated employees and the one million plus commuters who rely on us each weekday," said Metro's Police Chief Polly Hanson. "It is imperative for everyone to have a plan and to know what to do if a situation arises."

NEWS & NOTES

National Night Out 2005. Mark your calendars for August 2. That evening, DC will join the rest of the country in celebrating the annual National Night Out against crime. All seven police districts will be holding crime prevention events. For details, contact your local police district, or find an event in your community at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1242,q,557609.asp>

Life Skills Community Youth Camp. In conjunction with several community partners, the Sixth District is launching a six-week youth camp focusing on sports and recreation, as well as job training, banking and conflict resolution. Details at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1245,q,557623.asp>

Talk with Chief Ramsey on July 19. Chief Ramsey discusses public safety issues and takes phone calls during his monthly "Chatting with the Chief" segment on WHUR-96.3 FM, from 7:15-7:30 on Tuesday, July 19 (note the new time).

① Read more at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1234,q,557616,mpdcNav_GID,1544.asp

① CHAMPS (Capital Hotels Award Metropolitan Police Service) is a monthly awards program hosted by the Hotel Association of Washington, DC. The July awards luncheon was hosted by the Wyndham Washington Hotel in Northwest.

① Members of the public are invited to submit commendations for outstanding MPDC officers anytime, using the online form:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1241,q,548642,mpdcNav_GID,1523,mpdcNav,|.asp

① To read the full statement — in English or Spanish — go to:
<http://app.mpdc.dc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp?sid=3261>

① To better serve DC's Latino communities, the MPDC created the Latino Liaison Unit. Learn more at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1232,q,540963,mpdcNav_GID,1523,mpdcNav,|.31417|.asp.

DATA BOX

Homicides	as of 7/15/05
◆ 2005: 94	
◆ 2004: 101	
◆ % Change: -6.9%	
◆ Closure Rate: 53.29% (50 closures)	
Adult Arrests	week end. 7/9/05
◆ Total: 848	
◆ Drugs: 141	
◆ Weapons: 23	
◆ Motor Vehicle Theft: 6	
◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 66	
Juvenile Activity	week end. 7/9/05
◆ Arrests: 43	
◆ Curfew Violations: 80	
◆ Truants: 0	
Firearm Recoveries	as of 7/13/05
◆ July: 65	
◆ 2005 Total: 1,296	
Traffic Fatalities	as of 7/15/05
◆ 2005: 21	
◆ 2004: 30	
◆ % Change: --30.0%	

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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